

**STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:**

The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as previously amended.

**Claim 1. (Previously Presented.)** An isolated alpha-amylase selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polypeptide produced by *Bacillus sp.* NCIMB 40916,
- b) a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as shown in positions 1-556 of SEQ ID NO: 4,
- c) a polypeptide encoded by the alpha-amylase encoding part of the DNA sequence cloned into a plasmid present in *Escherichia coli* DSM 13001 (NN049489), and
- d) a polypeptide that:
  - i) is at least 60 % homologous with the polypeptide defined in (a) or (b), or
  - ii) is derived from the polypeptide defined in (a) or (b) by one or more of substitution, deletion or insertion of one or more amino acids.

**Claim 2. (Previously Presented.)** An isolated alpha-amylase having an enzymatic activity at pH 10.5 that is at least two times higher than the activity at pH 7.3 when measured at 37°C.

**Claim 3. (Previously Presented.)** An isolated alpha-amylase having an enzymatic activity at pH 9.5 that is at least 4 times higher than the activity at pH 7.3 when measured at 37°C.

**Claim 4. (Previously Presented.)** The alpha-amylase of claim 1, wherein said alpha-amylase is derived from a strain of *Bacillus*.

**Claim 5. (Previously Presented.)** The alpha-amylase of claim 1, wherein said alpha-amylase retains more than 90 % of its activity after 20 minutes incubation at 25°C in a solution of 3 g/l of a test detergent containing 20% sodium tripolyphosphate (STPP), 25% Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, 15% Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, 20% linear alkylbenzene sulfonate (LAS), 5% C<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>15</sub> alcohol ethoxylate, 5% Na<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, 0.3% NaCl at pH 10.5 and 6 degrees German hardness, and retains less than 90 % of its activity after 20 minutes incubation at 30°C in the same solution.

**Claim 6. (Original.)** The alpha-amylase of claim 1 which has a molecular weight of about 55 kDa as determined by SDS-PAGE.

Claim 7. (Original.) The alpha-amylase of claim 1 which has an iso-electric point of about 5 as determined by isoelectric focusing.

Claim 8. (Original.) The alpha-amylase of claim 1 in the form of a detergent additive which is a non-dusting granulate or a stabilized liquid.

Claims 9-15 (Cancelled.)

Claim 16. (Original.) A method for producing the alpha-amylase of claim 1, comprising cultivating an amylase-producing strain of *Bacillus* in a suitable nutrient medium, and recovering the alpha-amylase from the culture medium.

Claim 17. (Original.) A detergent composition comprising the alpha-amylase of claim 1 and a surfactant.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented.) The detergent composition of claim 17, wherein said composition has a pH of 8.5-11 in aqueous solution.

Claim 19. (Original.) The detergent composition of claim 18 which is a laundry detergent.